

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A method for managing a network comprising a network element, said method comprising:

selecting a real time variable of said network element for dynamic monitoring in a cell on a spreadsheet;

measuring said real time variable of said network element; and

using said measured real time variable in said cell.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said real time variable is measured by polling said network element.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said using said measured real time variable includes displaying said measured real time variable in said cell.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is displayed as part of a graph.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is stored in a memory.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is sent to said cell only if said measured real time variable changes.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said using said measured real time variable includes triggering a business action, when said measured real time variable satisfies a predetermined condition.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein said business action includes a selection from a group consisting of sending an email, sending a phone message, triggering an event in a workflow process, and any combination thereof.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein said predetermined condition is exceeding a predetermined threshold.

Claim 10 (original): A method for displaying real time data from a network element on a display at a client computer, said client computer connected to a server via a public communications network, said method comprising:

- displaying on said display a spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells;
- assigning a real time variable to a cell of said plurality of cells, wherein said real time variable is measured from said network element;
- receiving a dynamic update of said real time variable via said server; and
- displaying said dynamic update in said spreadsheet.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein network element is part of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying a graph of historical values of said real time variable.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying a status of a network link associated with said network element.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said network link is a VPN link.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update is displayed in said cell on said spreadsheet.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update is combined with static data before being displayed on said spreadsheet.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update triggers a business action when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said business action includes a selection from a group consisting of sending an email, sending a phone message, triggering an event in a workflow process, and any combination thereof.

Claim 19 (amended): A server system for managing a network ~~device~~ element, wherein said server system is connected to a client computer executing software in an Internet browser, said software stored in a computer readable medium, said server system comprising:

- a network interface for receiving from said software a request to monitor a measurable variable of said network element;
- a data monitor module for periodically monitoring said measurable variable; and
- a live update module for sending changes **[[to]] in** said measurable variable to said software.

Claim 20 (original): The server system of claim 19 wherein said periodically monitoring said measurable variable comprises polling a MIB of said network element using SNMP.

Claim 21 (original): The server system of claim 19 wherein said software comprises a spreadsheet program.

Claim 22 (original): The server system of claim 19 wherein said network element is part of a VPN.

Claim 23 (original): The server system of claim 19 further comprising an asset database.

Claim 24 (**original**): The server system of claim 23 wherein said network element is associated with an asset object of said asset database.

Claim 25 (**original**): The server system of claim 23 wherein said asset database is an objected oriented database, relational database, or a combination thereof.

Claim 26 (**original**): A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer, comprising:

- a data structure stored in said memory, said data structure comprising a plurality of data objects for use by said application program, said plurality of data objects comprising:

- an asset data object comprising a physical or logical asset;

- a profile associated with said asset data object for describing said physical or logical asset; and

- a value comprising a measured value of said asset data object for dynamically updating said value to said application program.

Claim 27 (**original**): The memory of claim 26 wherein said logical asset is a device selected from a group consisting of a router, switch, hub, host, server, personal computer, and gateway.

Claim 28 (**original**): The memory of claim 26 wherein said application program is a spreadsheet program.

Claim 29 (**amended**): A method for dynamically managing a network using business information, said network comprising a network **device element**, comprising:

- selecting a real time variable to be dynamically monitored based on a legal agreement;

- measuring said real time variable using said network element; and

- using said measured real time variable, determining if a condition in said legal agreement is met.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29 wherein said legal agreement is a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 29 wherein said network is a VPN.

Claim 32 (original): A method, using a computer display, for a dynamic sales presentation of a network, comprising:

- presenting said dynamic sales presentation on said computer display to a customer, said dynamic sales presentation, comprising a real time variable of said network;

- during said presenting, updating said real time variable by measuring a network element of said network; and

- displaying said updated real time variable to said customer.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein said network is a VPN.

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 32 further comprising relating said updated real time variable to cost information.

Claim 35 (original): A system for managing a network comprising a network element, comprising:

- means for selecting a real time variable of said network element, wherein said real time variable is dynamically monitored in a cell on a spreadsheet;

- means for measuring said real time variable of said network element; and

- means for using said measured real time variable in said cell.